

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A traffic control apparatus for controlling traffic between a plurality of client apparatuses and a server apparatus in a service system including the plurality of client apparatuses for issuing service requests to the server apparatus and the server apparatus for receiving the service requests from the client apparatuses to provide the service, comprising:

a unit for receiving the service requests from the client apparatuses to the server apparatus;

a unit for measuring reception performance of a client apparatus;

a unit for receiving a reply sent from the server apparatus in response to the service request and controlling the number of client apparatuses simultaneously connected to the server apparatus in accordance with the reception performance of the client apparatus; and

a unit for relaying requests to the server apparatus with regard to the service requests received from the plurality of client apparatuses in accordance with the number of simultaneously connected client apparatuses.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for estimating a waiting time of the reply supplied by the server apparatus; and

a unit for sending an access restriction message for rejecting the request when the waiting time is longer than a fixed time.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for changing priority used to relay the request to the server apparatus in accordance with the data reception performance of the client apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the unit for measuring reception performance comprises ~~comprising~~:

a client performance measurement unit for observing time that the client apparatus receives the service reply to calculate the data reception performance of the client apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the unit for measuring reception performance comprises

a client performance measurement unit for observing time that the server apparatus sends the service reply to calculate the data reception performance of the client apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a unit for making access restriction on [[the]] a request already received from the client apparatus when priority of [[the]] a request received later is higher than that of the already received request.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for changing priority of the request relayed to the server apparatus in accordance with the data reception performance of the client apparatus.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a unit for controlling an average response time to the client apparatus within a fixed time.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The traffic control apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a unit for providing a maximum processing time of the request to the client apparatus before the request is transferred to the server apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) A service system including a server apparatus for receiving service requests from client apparatuses and a traffic control apparatus for controlling traffic between the client apparatuses and the server apparatus, wherein:

the traffic control apparatus comprises:

a unit for receiving service requests from the client apparatuses to the server apparatus;

a unit for measuring reception performance of a client apparatus;

a unit for receiving a reply sent from the server apparatus in response to the service request and controlling the number of client apparatuses simultaneously connected to the server apparatus in accordance with the reception performance of the client apparatus; and

a unit for making relay processing to the server apparatus with regard to the service requests received from the plurality of client apparatuses in accordance with the number of simultaneously connected client apparatuses; and

the server apparatus comprises:

a unit for sending the reply to the service request to the traffic control apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The service system according to claim 11, wherein the traffic control apparatus further includes:

a unit for changing priority of the request relayed to the server apparatus in accordance with the data reception performance of the client apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The service system according to claim 11, wherein the traffic control apparatus further comprises:

a unit for controlling an average response time to the client apparatus within a fixed time.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The service system according to claim 11, wherein the traffic control apparatus further comprises:

a unit for providing a maximum processing time of the request to the client apparatus before the request is transferred to the server apparatus.

15. (New) A traffic control apparatus for controlling traffic between at least one server apparatus for providing service and a plurality of client apparatuses for issuing a service request to said server apparatus, comprising:

- a unit for receiving a service request issued to said server apparatus by one of said client apparatuses;

- a unit for transmitting said service request to said server apparatus;

- a unit for receiving from said server apparatus a response to said service request;

- a unit for transmitting said response to said one client apparatus;

- a unit for measuring the time for receiving said response from said server apparatus by said one client apparatus and the data size of said response, and storing a value which is obtained by dividing said data size by said time and indicates a processing performance of said one client apparatus;

- a unit for adding said value to obtain a sum of client performance stored in correspondence with said server apparatus; and

- a unit for refusing the acceptance of a new service request from among said plurality of client apparatuses to said server apparatus when said sum of client performance exceeds a processing performance value stored in advance for said server apparatus.